

## A new *Oocorys* from Western Australia

(Mollusca, Gastropoda, Cassidae)

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A new species of the family Cassidae Swainson, 1832 is described from deep water off Western Australia. The new species belongs to the genus *Oocorys* Fischer, 1883 in the subfamily Oocorythinae Fischer, 1883. Type species of the genus is *Oocorys sulcata* Fischer, 1883. The Oocorythinae live in deep to very deep water (120 m to more than 4500 m).

The new species is compared with the similar looking *Oocorys lussii* Bozzetti, 1990 from the Western Indian Ocean now is regarded as a form of *Oocorys verrilli* (Dall, 1889) (Alan Beu, pers. comm.).

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### Introduction

In December 2000 the senior author received three specimens of an unidentified *Oocorys* from the Australian shell dealer and collector Hugh Morrison. After a close examination of the shells and an intensive discussion with Dr Alan Beu, Lower Hutt, New Zealand we decided to describe this species as new to science.

### *Oocorys morrisoni*, spec. nov.

Figs 1, 2

**Types.** Holotype: 160 naut. miles off Broome, Western Australia, on sand and mud in 450-500 m; collected by scampi trawlers. Size: height: 39.7 mm; width: 28.5 mm; adult, with operculum. Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, coll. no. WAM S 1365.

Paratypes: 1, in coll. Hugh Morrison, Kingsley, Western Australia. Size: height: 32.2 mm; width: 22.0 mm; adult, with operculum. – 2, in coll. Kurt Kreipl, Meeresmuseum Öhringen, Germany coll. no. 8400. Size: height: 32.5 mm; width: 20.9 mm; slightly subadult, with operculum.

### Description of holotype

Shell ovate, small for the genus; thin-shelled but solid. Protoconch of 3 whorls, teleoconch of 2¾ whorls. Teleoconch whorls sculptured with strong, regularly-spaced spiral ridges (22 on the body whorl) crossed by numerous fine growth lines forming strong beads at points of intersection. Suture not incised. Very distinctive sutural ramp on the shoulder area. Outer lip thickened and reflected, bearing 15 rather low but distinct teeth along its inner edge. Parietal shield very weakly developed with spiral sculpture showing through. Columellar margin with 4 distinct teeth in the upper part of the aperture.

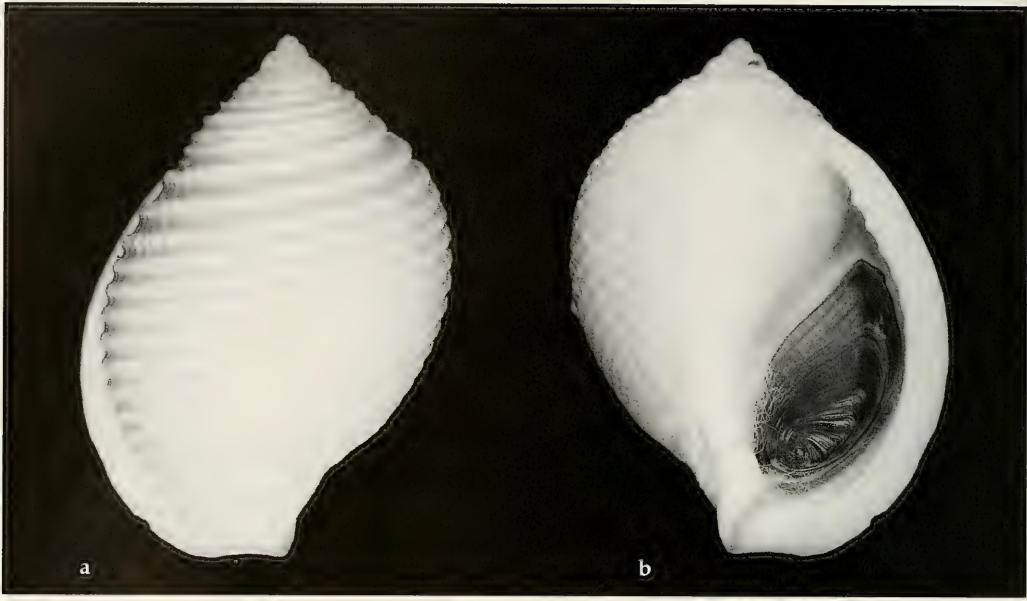


Fig. 1. *Oocorys morrisoni*, spec. nov. Holotype. a. Dorsal view. b. Ventral view.



Fig. 2. *Oocorys morrisoni*, spec. nov. Holotype and paratypes. a. Dorsal view. b. Ventral view.

Colour bright cream to soft orange with a moderate gloss. Outer lip and lower part of the columella white.

Operculum corneous, paucispiral; yellowish-brown.

**Discussion:** *Oocorys morrisoni*, spec. nov. at first glance very much resembles *Oocorys verrilli* form *lussii* (Bozzetti, 1990) from the western Indian Ocean (South Africa to Madagascar and Réunion), but differs in having more spiral cords on the body whorl (22 in *morrisoni*; 18-20 in *verrilli* form *lussii*) and more teeth on the inner edge of the outer lip (15 in *morrisoni*; 12 in *verrilli* form *lussii*). *Oocorys verrilli* form *lussii* does not have the distinct sutural ramp of *morrisoni*. The basic colour of *verrilli* form *lussii* is pale beige whereas *morrisoni* shows a bright cream to soft orange colour. The very distinct sutural ramp and particularly the coloration of *Oocorys morrisoni*, spec. nov. are the most distinguishing features of this new species as most other *Oocorys* are plain white, or at most pale cream or pale beige.

**Etymology.** We name this new species after the Western Australian shell dealer and collector Hugh Morrison who brought it to our attention.

### Acknowledgements

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### References

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